

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LISBON 04837 231609Z

40

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 OPIC-03 AF-06

SAM-01 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAJ-01 CIEP-01 OMB-01 INRE-00

/066 W

----- 049592

O R 231517Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3890

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 4837

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

REF: LISBON 4810 DTG 221526Z AUG 75

SUMMARY: UNIT DELEGATES OF THE SOUTHERN MILITARY REGION MEET;
FABIAO WARNS OF PERNICIOUS LEFTIST SLANT IN PRESS; COPCON LOSES
CONTROL OF NAVY, AIR FORCE UNITS; VICE-PREMIER METELO PRESENTS
OUTLINE OF V PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC
PROGRAM; EPISCOPATE REPUDIATES VIOLENCE; CATHOLIC, PPD, PCP
DEMONSTRATIONS SCHEDULED FOR AUG. 23-24 WEEKEND. END SUMMARY.

1. SOUTHERN MILITARY REGION DELEGATES MEET: GEN. OTELO
SARAIVA DE CARVALHO AND GEN. CARLOS FABIAO PRESIDED OVER A
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LISBON 04837 231609Z

MEETING OF DELEGATES FROM THE MILITARY UNITS OF THE SOUTHERN

MILITARY REGION IN EVORA AUG. 22. REGION COMMANDER GEN. PEZARAT CORREIA AND CAPT. MARQUES JUNIOR, RC MEMBER AND OTELO'S AIDE, WERE ALSO PRESENT. FABIAO STATED THAT PURPOSE OF MEETING WAS TO "ENLIGHTEN AND HARMONIZE" MILITARY OPINION IN LIGHT OF CURRENT RUMOR-FILLED ATMOSPHERE OF NATION.

2. FABIAO SPEAKS: FOLLOWING RETURN TO LISBON FROM EVORA, FABIAO ADDRESSED NATION ON TELEVISION. CRITICIZING PRESS COVERAGE OF CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION AS DIVISIVE AND CONFUSING, HE AFFIRMED THAT PORTUGUESE REVOLUTION PASSING THROUGH CRISIS WHICH IS RESULT OF NATURAL BUILDUP OF INTERNAL CONTRADICTIONS. CONTRADICTIONS MUST BE OVERCOME BY CRUSHING REACTION AND CORRECTING MISTAKES MADE IN THE PAST. PRIMARY MISTAKE IS RADICALIZATION OF CERTAIN CIVILIAN AND MILITARY SECTORS WHICH SEE ATTEMPTS TO QUESTION REVOLUTION AS COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY, THEREBY ARTIFICALLY DIVIDING COUNTRY INTO TWO CAMPS--LEFTIST AND RIGHTISTS. THIS PHENOMENON HAS LED TO CONFUSION AND DIVISION WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES, DISTRACTING THEM FROM THEIR PRIMARY MISSION, THE FIGHT AGAINST REACTION. FABIAO CALLED FOR UNITY OF ALL PROGRESSIVE FORCES, OF ARMED FORCES IN GENERAL, AND ARMY IN PARTICULAR.

3. COPCON LOSES NAVY, AIR FORCE UNITS; DAO HAS CONFIRMED THAT AIR FORCE UNITS ASSIGNED TO COPCON HAVE BEEN WITHDRAWN, AND HENCEFORTH WILL RECEIVE ORDERS DIRECTLY FROM THEIR RESPECTIVE GENERAL STAFFS. REPORT THAT NAVY UNITS HAVE ALSO BEEN WITHDRAWN FROM COPCON OPERATIONAL CONTROL HAS NOT BEEN CONFIRMED. DAO ALSO HAD CONFLICTING REPORTS THAT COMMANDO UNITS WOULD BE WITHDRAWN.

4. VICE -PREMIER ON TV: VICE PREMIER MAJ. ARNAO METELO WENT ON TELEVISION AUGUST 22 TO OUTLINE FIFTH PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT "GAME PLAN" TO NATION (REFTEL).

5. PORTUGUESE BISHOPS DENOUNCE VIOLENCE: THE PERMANENT COUNCIL OF THE EPISCOPATE HAS RELEASED A NOTE DENOUNCING VIOLENCE, EVEN WHEN MOTIVATED BY REVOLUTIONARY ENDS. IT DISTINGUISHES, HOWEVER, BETWEEN VIOLENCE AND LEGITIMATE DEMONSTRATION IN PROTEST AGAINST VIOLATION OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LISBON 04837 231609Z

6. DEMONSTRATIONS SCHEDULED: DEMONSTRATIONS SCHEDULED THIS WEEKEND INCLUDE:

--PCP HAS SCHEDULED RALLY IN EVORA AUGUST 24 TO PROTEST WAVE OF VIOLENCE.

--PPD HAS SCHEDULED THREE DEMONSTRATIONS AVEIRO ON AUGUST 23, ANADIA AND ESPINHO ON AUGUST 25) AT WHICH PARTY LEADER GUERREIRO WILL SPEAK.

--DEMONSTRATION OF SUPPORT OF BISHOP HAS BEEN CALLED FOR

AUG 24 IN LEIRIA. MDP/CDE ATTACKED MEETING IN AUGUST 22
COMMUNIQUE WARNING THAT GATHERING WILL BE USED AS COVER FOR
REVOLUTIONARY VIOLENCE.

7. COMMENT: SERIES OF MEETINGS BY FABIAO AND OTELO WITH
REGIONAL MILITARY COMMANDERS DESIGNED TO STRENGTHEN POSITION OF
MELO ANTUNES-OTELLO GROUP WITHIN ARMED FORCES IN ANTICIPATION
OF SHOWDOWN WITH GONCALVES. MEETINGS WITH AFM DELEGATES
OUTSIDE LISBON IN EFFECT GO "OVER THE HEAD" OF THE LEFTIST
DOMINATED AFM ASSEMBLY. FABIAO'S "UNITY" APPEAL SOUND LIKE THE
WORDS OF A PRIME MINISTER DESIGNATE. METELO'S APPEARANCE IS THE
LATEST IN SERIES OF DESPERATE EFFORTS BY GONCALVES' SUPPORTERS
TO SAVE THE PRIME MINISTER. DETACHMENT OF MILITARY UNITS FROM
COPCON LENDS ITSELF TO VARYING INTERPRETATIONS. WHILE IT MAY
REFLECT ONLY THE DESIRE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THESE SERVICES
TO HAVE DIRECT COMMAND OVER THEIR OWN FORCES IN THE CURRENT CRISIS
ATMOSPHERE, IT MAY ALSO INDICATE THEIR PERSONAL DISTASTE FOR
OTELLO AND OR OTHERS WITHIN ANTI-GONCALVES GROUP. PRO-
COMMUNIST PRESS, PROCLAIMING COMEBACK YESTERDAY FOR GONCALVES
FORCES, SAYS OTELO STOCK HAS FALLEN WITHIN MILITARY FOR HAVING
"SOLD OUT TO ANTUNES REACTIONARIES."
CARLUCCI

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REFORM, POLITICAL SITUATION, MEETINGS, POLITICAL LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LISBON04837
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750292-1160
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750823/aaaaaucc.tel
Line Count: 137
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 LISBON 4810
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <08 OCT 2003 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS
TAGS: PINT, PO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006